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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/033,179	12/28/2001	Takehiro Kaminagayoshi	100809-00114(SCEY 19.304)	7320
26304	7590	03/29/2005	EXAMINER	
KATTEN MUCHIN ZAVIS ROSENMAN 575 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10022-2585			KOROBOV, VITALI A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2155	

DATE MAILED: 03/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/033,179	Applicant(s) KAMINAGAYOSHI, TAKEHIRO	
	Examiner Vitali Korobov	Art Unit 2155	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1 – 19 are presented for examination.

Election/Restrictions

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-5, drawn to information processing equipment and method for forming an object based on information related to user's character and tastes, classified in class 345, subclass 581.
 - II. Claims 6 - 12, drawn to information processing equipment and method for storing user objects, detecting identical records, collating the results and transmitting them to the users, classified in class 707, subclass 103.
 - III. Claims 13 - 19, drawn to a network communication system, classified in class 709, subclass 201 - 202.

Combination-subcombination

3. Inventions (II) and (III) are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations (MPEP §806.05(c)).

In the instant case, the combination as claimed (Invention (II), information processing equipment and method for storing user objects, detecting identical records, collating the results and transmitting them to the users) does not require the particulars of the subcombination (Invention (III), a network communication system) as claimed because the Invention (II) do not rely upon the specific details of network communication system of the subcombination for their patentability.

The subcombination has separate utility as a system and a method for connecting a plurality of user terminal devices and adding and transmitting user information between the users.

Subcombinations, Useable Together

4. Inventions (I) and (II), and inventions (I) and (III), are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable (MPEP §806.05(d)).

In the instant case, Invention (I) has separate utility as a method for forming an object based on information related to user's character and tastes, and invention (II) has separate utility as information processing equipment and method of user data storage and manipulation, such as storing user objects, detecting identical records, collating the results and transmitting them to the users. Similarly, Invention (III) has a separate utility from Invention (I) as described in the previous section (MPEP § 806.05(c)).

Conclusion To All Restriction Requirements

5. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above, and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification and because their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

6. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single group disclosed as described above for prosecution on the merits because each of the groups requires different search in different class and subclasses.

7. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

8. Applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH, or THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this communication, whichever is longer, within which to respond to this restriction requirement in order to avoid abandonment (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of this time period may be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vitali Korobov whose telephone number is 571-272-7506. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Friday 8a.m. - 4:30p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2155

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Vitali Korobov
Examiner
Art Unit 2155

03/24/2005
VAK


HOSAIN ALAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER